



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, March 7, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey:

As of March 2, 2005, 1,798 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those 482 were infested host trees and 1,316 were high risk exposed host trees. Tree falling crews continue to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently 11 program personnel from USDA-APHIS-PPQ, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Eight USDA-Forest Service smokejumpers are scheduled to arrive next week to continue surveying trees within the delimitation area of the infestation.

To date, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway, NJ, operated by Covanta Union, Inc., has accepted and burned 977.4 tons of wood chips generated by the tree removals in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. In support of the ALB Program, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility will continue to accept and burn wood chips generated by the program for the duration of the program, converting the wood chips into electricity.

A public information session is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. at the Rahway City Library to inform residents about the expanded ALB quarantine zone in Rahway and the need to cut down approximately 1,400 more trees in the city due to the expansion.

New York:

Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) is planning to include information about ALB in the next issue of LIPA News. This is the newsletter that goes into the bills that are sent to 1.8 million customers on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties). It is scheduled to go out April 4 through May 31. LIPA is also planning a

press event, highlighting the ALB Program, during early April.

New York City Parks and Recreation agreed to treat all the ALB host trees within the designated treatment areas using soil injection as the primary method of chemical application and trunk injection with the Arborjet Viper application system when required. Special consideration will be given to treating select elms trees that have been designated as management concerns by NYC Parks.

On February 25, public outreach training was conducted with selected members from the New York ALB Program. Having the additional outreach assistance will enable the program to educate the public about the goals of the New York Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program, educate regional government officials and green industry leaders about the ALB, damage it can cause, inspecting for signs of infestation, quarantine requirements, and procedures for reporting any sightings of the ALB to the eradication program. The ALB outreach campaign will also increase public awareness by expanding outreach efforts to areas outside the current quarantines, such as, Staten Island, the Bronx, Upstate NY and eastern Long Island, to help thwart the spread of ALB to non-infested areas of the United States.

Starting next week, March 7-11, six USDA FS Smokejumpers will start surveying trees in New York City's Central Park.

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture is working on setting up a series of public meetings, slated for March 31, in Park Ridge, Bensenville and Ravenswood, to announce the deregulation of sections of the ALB Quarantine Areas in Illinois.

As of February 26, a total of 21,204 trees have been surveyed for the year, with no signs of ALB infestation.

Three USDA-FS Smokejumpers will be arriving in Chicago on March 7, to assist with the Quality Assurance program.



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USDA- FS ALB Public Outreach Grant Holders Meeting:

On Thursday, February 24 a meeting to discuss ALB Public Outreach needs with USDA Forest Service Grant Holders was held. The groups represented included the USDA Forest Service, APHIS LPA, New York State (DEC), Trees New York, Liberty City Science Center and Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The meeting covered supporting the ALB eradication program through broader campaigns on issues of firewood movement, early detection, general economic and other benefits of trees, threat of invasive insects to industries, watersheds, etc.

Some of the public outreach needs/issues addressed for the NY/NJ ALB eradication programs included: NY - access to properties remains a serious problem, particularly high rise buildings, properties in low income areas, vacant properties, and building support for restoration efforts. NJ - continued survey efforts of infested areas, tree removals, promotion of public cooperation and building support for restoration efforts.

Contact: Christine Markham

Cotton Pest Programs

Boll Weevil Eradication:

The program has now eliminated the boll weevil from nearly 13 million acres, or about 79 percent of U.S. cotton. In 2005, the active eradication program will involve the remaining 3.4 million acres. This means that the weevil has been eradicated from 4 out of every 5 acres of U.S. cotton. Most growers are very pleased with program results, and nationwide eradication is expected to occur in 2008.

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Fruit Flies

Through the cooperative efforts of PPQ and the California Department of Agriculture, Oriental Fruit Fly has been eradicated from California. There are now no

areas under quarantine for Oriental Fruit Fly within the continental United States.

Mexfly detections in the Lower Rio Grande Valley have reached the regulatory trigger for the first production zone this season. All citrus harvested from this production zone, shipped to citrus producing states, must now be treated.

Contact: Wayne Burnett

Sudden Oak Death

As of this past Friday, March 4, the APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* website has a new address:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorum/>

The change reflects our policy of not referring to the pest by the name Sudden Oak Death, which does not fully or accurately capture the scope of plants affected or the diseases caused by the pathogen. And, in response to concerns raised by the sod/turf grass industry.

Visitors using the old address will get a message telling them of the new address. If their browser permits it, they will be automatically redirected to the new site or they can manually click on a provided link.

Please update your bookmarks and any links you may have to our site.

PPQ has confirmed that a red tip photinia (*Photinia fraseri*) shipped from the large Los Angeles County nursery recently found positive for *P. ramorum* and collected from a garden center in Arizona is positive for *P. ramorum*. This is the first report of a positive photinia in the United States. Previous positive reports have come from the United Kingdom.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture reports that plants collected from five nurseries that received plants from the large Los Angeles County production nursery have tested positive for *P. ramorum*. The plants are all Camellias (*Camellia japonica* or *C. sasanqua*). The two wholesale and three retail outlets are in Southern California. California Department of



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Food and Agriculture is applying the PPQ Confirmed Nursery Protocol at these sites.

Contact: Jim Writer

Weeds Program

Dr. Al Tasker the National Noxious Weed Program Manager participated in the 6th annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week 6 held in Washington D.C. February 27 to March 3, 2005.

A Kids Fun Day was held for the second year at the U.S. Botanic Garden. Approximately 1600 attendees were counted, about 2/3 more than last year. Activities included educational weed program displays and games, and weed stories and songs in English and Spanish. Al Tasker was the Weed Sheriff, handing out Weed Deputy badges to the children, and participating in the singing.

A USDA briefing was held for the stakeholders. Mark Rey, USDA, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment chaired the section of the briefing which included a presentation by APHIS Associate Administrator, Dr. Peter Fernandez (substituting for Administrator DeHaven). Stakeholder questions for APHIS at this meeting were fielded which included the topics of: implementation and funding for the Noxious Weed Eradication and Control Act of 2004; the APHIS biological control permitting process, including issues with U.S. Fish and Wildlife consultation for endangered species; APHIS biological control agent hand carrying policy.

Answers made at the session will be amplified further in writing and provided to the stakeholders.

A presentation and discussion was held of an Invasive Species presentation from a future NPR series "Strange Days on Planet Earth". The producer of the series was present. The series is scheduled to air April 20 and 27. Plans are underway to prescreen this Invasive Species film at Riverdale in March or April.

Al Tasker and Susan Bright, acting ISPM Director represented APHIS at a meeting with the North

American Weed Management Association Board at National Invasive Species Council Staff headquarters. USDA Invasive Species Coordinator, Hila Diaz-Saltero, as well as Invasive Species Coordinators from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service answered questions from the board. Emphasis on questions to APHIS was on more details related to the implementation and funding for the Noxious Weed Eradication and Control Act of 2004; the APHIS biological control permitting process, including issues with U.S. Fish and Wildlife consultation for endangered species; and APHIS biological control agent hand carrying policy as at the USDA hearing. Several states are particularly pressing for information regarding the question of Delegation to APHIS and the implementation details.

Contact: Alan Tasker